

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

Summary Minutes

April 21, 2005

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room

SPU Operations Control Center

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Dennis Moore (MIT), Frank Urabeck (TU), Chuck Wischman (PSA), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Bill Robinson (Public), Hans Berge (KC), and Michael Kern (LLTK)

Other Participants: Dave Seiler, Chuck Johnson (WDFW), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

Public: *None present*

Call to order

Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:07AM

Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the agenda.

Meeting minutes review

The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from March 17, 2005 with some minor changes requested by Michael K. and Dave S.

HSRG Presentation

Michael Kern provided members with a presentation on HSRG and their recent use of the AHA management tool. A summary paper describing the AHA tool can be found on Long Live the Kings website at http://www.lltk.org/pdf/AHA_Overview_May05.pdf. Michael K. briefly described the history of hatcheries in Washington State. He described the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington Hatchery Reform Project as a science-based redesign of hatcheries to achieve two new goals: help conserve naturally spawning populations and support suitable fisheries. HSRG divided the Puget Sound and coastal areas into ten regions and the HSRG evaluated hatchery programs in each of these regions. Michael described the HSRG principles and recommendations represent a philosophic change in how to think about hatchery programs. Historically hatcheries were seen as a way to provide harvest. Today hatcheries are seen as one of several tools for conserving salmon as well as providing fishing opportunities. He noted that hatcheries are by their nature a compromise, a balancing of benefits and risks to the target stock, other stocks, and the environment. A hatchery program is only the right

solution if it is better than alternative means for achieving the same or similar goals. Michael described the HSRG work as related to integrated and segregated hatchery programs and ended his presentation with a summary of how the AHA Management Tool.

Sockeye monitoring and research

Status of zooplankton scope of work by Dan Schindler UW

Members received copies of the zooplankton SOW and Bruce briefed members on the project.

Status of fish health scope of work by WDFW

Bruce reported the HCP provides funding for fish health starting in 2005. He noted that in the past, WDFW has been monitoring fish health under the sockeye hatchery program and the additional funding may allow WDFW to expand the program.

Continued discussion of PIT tagging sockeye before they enter the locks

Bruce asked Dave S. to update members on the project to PIT tag adult sockeye at the locks. Dave S. stated USACOE has the tags for use and the plan is to tag fish before they enter the locks over the bulk of the sockeye run, 4 - 6 weeks in June and July. The sampling goal would be approximately 100 tags out a week.

Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Status of 2005 funded projects

Dave S. reported that WDFW had very limited success capturing cutthroat with tangle nets near the mouth of the Cedar River. This work was done to test the feasibility of capturing cutthroat for a mark and recapture study.

Status review of Puget Sound steelhead

Bruce noted the Puget Sound steelhead review was emailed to AFC members. Steve F. said WDFW will have comments by the deadline. Tim R. said a recommendation will be prepared by September 15, 2005 and if there was a recommendation to list it would occur in a year.

Discuss prioritization process for 2006 and schedule for RFP

Bruce suggested the AFC identify basic questions for each species like what is being done with steelhead. There are questions related to Landsburg and recolonization above the dam. He noted that a simple analysis of the number of redds above and below Landsburg shows the fish above Landsburg only account for about 4% of the population. One question is how long will it take for this high quality habitat to be more fully utilized. He noted that currently we are taking DNA from fish colonizing above the dam. One option the AFC may consider is stretching out the funding beyond 2008 for long-term genetic analysis to determine reproductive success of early colonizing spawners.

Public comment

No public comment.

Sockeye hatchery***SEIS status***

Bruce reported briefly on the status of the SEIS.

Information and discussion Items***Status report on Cedar River Hatchery***

Brodie reported that the 1st week of April was last hatchery release and that Charlotte the hatchery manager was now on vacation.

Cedar River steelhead counts

Steve F. reported 5 steelhead redds and stated a crew is floating the river about every 9 days.

North of Falcon meeting

Chuck J. reported the Snohomish and mid Hood Canal Chinook are playing a more important role in guiding fishing regulations. WDFW proposed a selective fishery for Chinook in the north end of Lake Washington. The forecast for Chinook NOR to the Cedar R is 600.

Adjourn

Adjourn 12:55 PM